Debt Redemption Scheme.

117. *MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the action that has been taken, if any, and the steps that they propose taking regarding the Debt Redemption Scheme recently submitted to Government by certain representatives of the people; and

(*b*) whether there was a discussion of the same by the Dewan with the said representatives at Bhaktivilas and, if so, what is the action taken by Government in furtherance of the same?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): (*a*) and (*b*) A committe has been appointed to enquire into the question agricultural indebtedness.

Marketing Officers.

118. *MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose appointing a few Marketing Officers and, if so, their pay and status, the number of officers so proposed to be appointed, their jurisdiction and functions?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The Government propose to appoint two Marketing Officers, a Senior Marketing Officer on Rs. 200-10/2-250 per mensem and a Junior Marketing Officer on Rs. 100-10/2-150 per mensem. Their functions are to conduct, in co-operation with the Imperial and Provincial staff of Marketing Officers, a survey of the marketing of agricultural products including dairy and animal husbandry products and fish, to detect defects in existing practices and suggest remedies. The officers have to conduct their work on a commodity basis and therefore their jurisdiction will be coextensive over the whole State.

Education Department Co-operative Benefit Fund.

119. *MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to the Education Department Co-operative Benefit Fund:

(*a*) whether the Director of Public Instruction has reported to Government expressing his willingness to be the President of the Fund and recommending that the members thereof be exempted from the operation of the Government Provident Fund Rules which compel them to join the latter Fund; and

(*b*) whether they have passed their decision on his recommendations?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) and (*b*). The answers are in the affirmative.

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